Smarter Balanced Technology Update and Hands-On Demonstration

California Common Core Convening

March 8, 2013

Jose Ortega

CA SBAC State Readiness Coordinator
Administrator, Education Technology Office
Educational Data Management Division

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Objective

Participants will hear an update on Smarter Balanced technology and have the opportunity to review the Smarter Balanced practice pilot test.

California Department of Education staff will provide technical assistance and answer questions regarding the technology requirements for the Smarter Balanced assessments.

Background

What is SBAC?

- Consortium of states to create common, innovative assessment system in ELA and Math aligned to the CCSS.

- Involves educators, researchers, policymakers, and community groups.

- Funded through federal RTTA, four year grant of $175M.

Nationwide Assessment

TOM TORLAKSON
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

24 member states (+18 million students)
(21 governing, 3 advisory states)

Smarter Balanced Goals

- To develop a set of comprehensive and innovative assessments for grades 3-8 and 11 (CA) in English language arts and mathematics aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

- Students leave high school prepared for postsecondary success in college or a career through increased student learning and improved teaching.

- The (computer-adaptive) assessments shall be operational across Consortium states in the 2014-15 school year.

Computer Adaptive Testing

TOM TORLAKSON
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

- Based on a student's responses to test questions, the system will adjust the difficulty of questions throughout the assessment.

- More efficient, more secure, and more accurate results.

- Currently being used in Hawaii, Oregon, Delaware, and Minnesota.

Computer Adaptive Testing

The system will **adjust the difficulty of items** throughout the assessment

Correct or Incorrect	Difficulty of Next Item
Correct ⟹	More Difficult
Incorrect ⟹	Easier

Role of Technology

9

Student and Test Administrator Browser and Interface

- Test Delivery component has a different interface for the student and the testing administrator

  – Students must use "Secure Browser" application

  – Test Administrators users may use any browser

Technology Requirements

School-level Technology Access

- Technology-enhanced test items will require compatibility with latest browser technologies.

- Test security will require device to run in "kiosk mode."

- Devices must support text-to-speech software.

- Test items with multimedia content will require sufficient internal and Internet network bandwidth.

How to Determine Readiness? Technology Readiness Tool!

- Developed and maintained by Pearson for SBAC and PARCC.

- Online Web application that collects information on the current Information Technology at the school-level.

- First data collection was used as an inventory for baseline purposes to help determine the minimum system requirements and shape system features.

Meeting the Technology Challenge
The TRT, Generally

- Assesses current capacity and compares to the technology that is expected to be required for new SBAC assessments.

- Areas: devices, devices to tester ratio, network infrastructure, and staff and personnel.

- Performs inventory, gap analysis and recommended areas where LEAs will need to upgrade technology.

Roles & Responsibilities Consortium & State

- Components hosted at consortium level
  - Item Authoring and Item Bank
  - Digital Library

- Components hosted at State level
  - Test Delivery
  - Data Warehouse
  - Reporting
  - Help Desk
  - Scoring

Roles & Responsibilities School Districts

- LEA-level technology responsibilities
  - Computers for test takers and test administrators.

  - Headphones, keyboards, printers.

  - Data network bandwidth (internal and Internet).

  - Technical support staff and training.

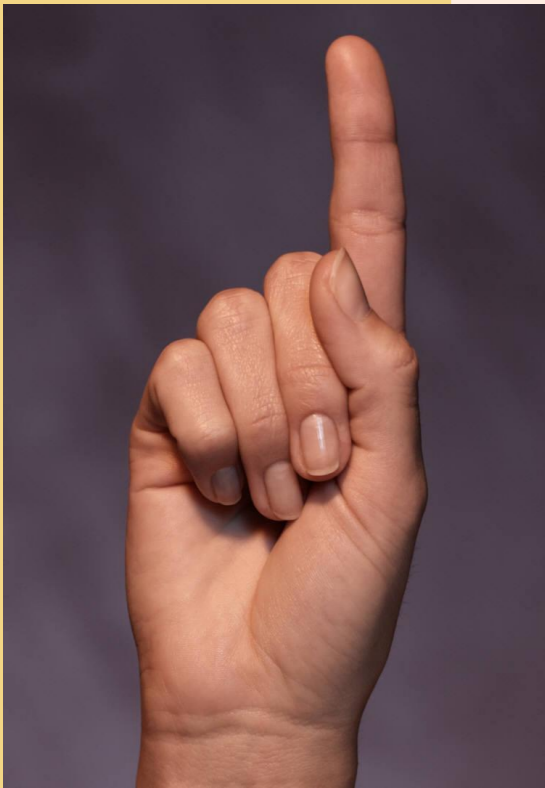 - Appropriate assessment environments.

Technology Specifications

Guidelines for Purchasing New Hardware

- Designed to inform schools and districts on current and future technology purchasing decisions consistent with SBAC requirements.

- Includes hardware and operating system specifications covering the vast majority of commercially available computers and tablets.

- The full guidelines are available online at http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/technology/

Technology Strategy Framework and System Requirement Specifications
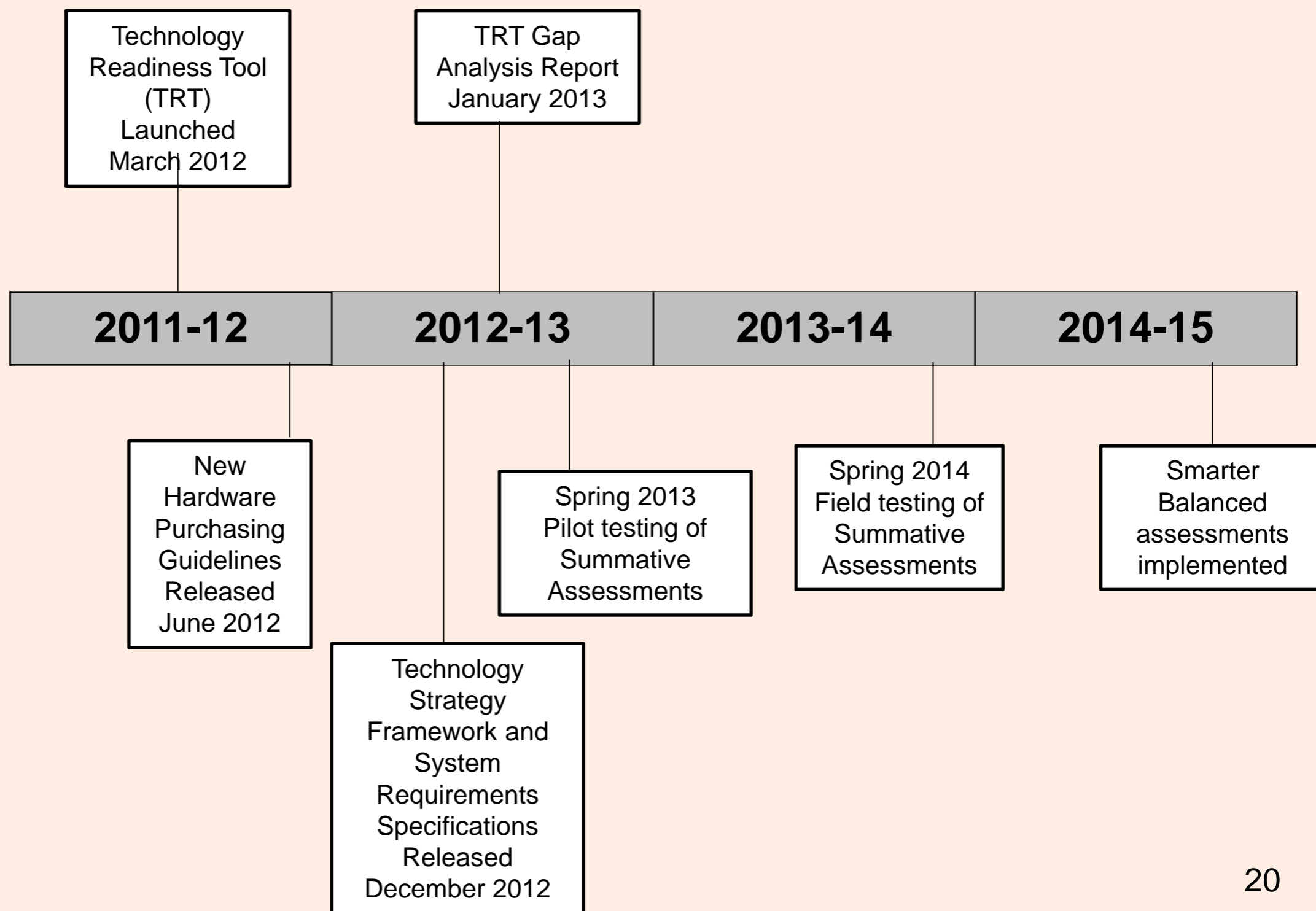
- Key Findings
  - States implementing online, computer-adaptive assessments similar to the proposed Smarter Balanced Assessment System have *done so effectively while adhering to tight budgetary provisions and implementation timelines*.
  - Districts and educators within states that have made the transition to online, computer-adaptive tests find considerable value in the increased amount and specificity of performance data available, the expediency in which the data is accessible, and the *cost-savings associated with online distribution and management of the assessment and the related data.*
  - *Much of the existing hardware devices currently deployed across school sites will effectively support the Smarter Balanced Assessment System*; however, districts must focus on ensuring ample bandwidth provisions to support larger populations of students participating in testing through strategic scheduling and rotations throughout administration windows.

Smarter Balanced Technology Milestones

TOM TORLAKSON
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

| 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |

Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) Launched March 2012

TRT Gap Analysis Report January 2013

New Hardware Purchasing Guidelines Released June 2012

Technology Strategy Framework and System Requirements Specifications Released December 2012

Spring 2013 Pilot testing of Summative Assessments

Spring 2014 Field testing of Summative Assessments

Smarter Balanced assessments implemented

Operational Planning

- Testing window selection

- Testing sessions per day selection

- Assessment environments determination

- Team approach strategy

- Instructional/technological/administrative and district coordination

- Gap analysis through TRT

Resources

- CDE Smarter Balanced Web page http://www.cde.ca.gov/sbac/

- Smarter Balanced Web site http://www.smarterbalanced.org/

- Technology specifications and requirements http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/technology/

Contact Information

TOM TORLAKSON
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

Jose Ortega
SBAC State Readiness Coordinator
Administrator, Education Technology Office
Educational Data Management Division
E-mail: jortega@cde.ca.gov

Email IT Readiness Questions to:
sbac-itreadiness@cde.ca.gov

QUESTIONS?